

**Thomas Jefferson to William Short, December 23,
1793, with Table of Certificates Received , from
Thomas Jefferson and William Short Correspondence,
Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt,
Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

Thomas Jefferson to William Short

Philadelphia Dec. 23. 1793

Dear Sir Private

I have to acknolege the receipt of your private letters of Apr. 2.5.June 23. & Oct. 7. of all of which due use has been and will be made. The last was put into my hands this day: and as on the last day of the month I resign my office and set out immediately, I went immediately to a Notary to have enquiries made whether ground rents could be purchased here, s this is unquestionably the best place. If they can, one fourth of your effective paper shall be invested in them, as soon as it rises to 20/ for at present it is lower than I would sell it, tho higher than I would buy at, to wit @ about 19/. When I get home I shall be better able to judge of the expediency of vesting another fourth in the James river or Patowmac canals. I wish another fourth could be laid out in lands so clearly advantageous as not to endanger any report on your part. but this is problematical. Could it be so, there would remain a fourth in paper: and much is the disfavor with which the public view every person holding that sort of property, that I think if I can get ground rents, with good buildings, clear of taxes, which will yeild equal profit, I shall venture as the friend of your favor as well as fortune to convert into them that fourth also. I have received from Patrick Kennon the stock stated hereafter and 109D83cents cash for interest. I have received from Mr. Brown

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the stock also stated hereafter. The Loan officer certified the interest which had been received by Mr. Brown amounting as well as I remember to about 2000D.(for I cannot at this moment turn to the paper). I have written to Mr. Brown to know if that is a balance of so much in your favor, and it is, expressing a wish to have it vested in stock

immediately: but have not yet received his answer. This being unquestionably the best market to have stock at, I have had the certificates transferred from the books at Richmond & New York to those at this place, where they now stand in your own name, and I shall place it under the care of an honest broker, without giving him power to alienate any capital but by express authority. You were never more mistaken than in supposing the red lands of Albemarle not favorable for grain & grass. On the contrary there are no high lands in the US. equal to them for these two objects. They cannot indeed be watered; but their richness renders that unnecessary. Witness la belle garon of J. Cose's but of this more when I have more leisure for now all is hurry and preparation for winding up here. E. Randolph is to be my successor. Having found that my former private letter went safely to you through the hands of Messrs. Viar & Saunders I shall confide this to the same. Accept assurances of my pure and zealous friendship.

Th: Jefferson

P.S. Do not fail is possible to get my Cortez's letters.